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bt Haji Mohd Ali, DPMS, AMN, PJK, JP

## *News From SPCA Selangor*

**For Release On 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

To :

# “Dying To Be Rescued”

Scenes of **starvation and death greeted tourists** who signed up for horse riding on the beach while enjoying their holiday in **Sabah, Malaysia**.

The tourists had visited the **Melinsung ranch** located 20 mins South of Kota Kinabalu to sign up for the activity. What they found left them sickened. **Starving and weak horses**, some unable to stand, were kept in **dirty paddocks and stables** in and around the ranch. The horses had **skin diseases, open wounds** and **infected sores**, and there were reports of many **dead and dying horses**.

The tourists reported the distressing scenes to the **World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)** in **June 2007**. Photos of the sick animals, posted on a forum in New Zealand, also reached WSPA, which quickly contacted its member society, the **Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Selangor**, based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to pressure the authorities to do something about the situation.

The SPCA reported the problem to the **Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) in Sabah** through the central DVS in Kuala Lumpur. **The DVS enforces Malaysia’s animal protection law**, and visited the horrific site in June 2007 (and a follow up visit January 2008), and decided it **would simply monitor the case and work with the owner to improve the conditions of the horses**. The owner of the Ranch is **Datuk Abdul Ghani Rashid, ex-Mayor of Kota Kinabalu**. When the DVS visited the ranch in June there were 70 horses. Now latest reports from **SPCA Representative Sue Quek**, state that **“There are only around 30 left and animals are still suffering and dying.”**

The SPCA was hoping the horses would be **confiscated**, and offered its help. But now SPCA officers say they’re devastated nothing appears to have been done, and the animals were apparently being **offered for sale**.

“SPCA has urged DVS Sabah to **act quickly to alleviate the suffering of the pitiful horses** and push for prosecution,” says **Christine Chin, SPCA Selangor Chairman.**

Sue Quek said: “The DVS has the power to confiscate animals from owners and to prosecute for animal cruelty under the **Animals Act 1953 (Act 647, revised in 2006)** that says it is an offence to cause ‘unnecessary suffering’ to animals. In July 2007, **the SPCA stood by with resources and skills to save these horses and rehabilitate them and send them on to loving caring homes. But our offer was not taken up.**”

“We heard in January 2008 that the horses were in a **worse condition, more were dead and others that couldn’t stand were being sold for meat.** We believe the DVS provided feed for the horses but it appears very little improvement in their condition has been achieved,” says **Dawn Peacock, Member Society Manager for WSPA.**

“We have heard that DVS Putrajaya visited the ranch recently and that DVS Sabah are in the process of removing the horses, but we have not received official confirmation from them. We hope that DVS Sabah will act to **confiscate the remaining horses quickly, to prevent more horses from suffering and death – any more delays in action would result in a tragic loss of innocent lives. We certainly hope that DVS will prosecute the owner of the Ranch** for causing unnecessary suffering.” continues Quek.

This case once again highlights the SPCA’s **campaign to increase the penalty for persons found guilty of animal cruelty.** The Animals Act 1953 states that a person guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to an animals will be fined RM200.00 or sent to prison for six months or both.

“A fine of RM 200, whilst princely in the 1950’s when the law was introduced, is paltry by today’s standards and is not a deterrent, even if it was charged for each animal in a case such as this. We have been lobbying the Government to increase the fine and jail sentence, and also impose lifetime-bans on pet ownership for persons found guilty of animal abuse,” Chin added.

## Call For ACTION

To take action please lobby the following authorities to take action. Please contact:

**DVS KL :**

Dato Dr Abd Aziz Bin Jamaluddin  
Director General  
Department of Veterinary Services  
Wisma Tani, Podium Block  
Lot 4G1, Precinct 4  
Federal Government Administration Centre  
62630 PUTRAJAYA  
MALAYSIA  
Tel: 603- 88888170 | Fax: 603-8888 6051  
e-mail : azizi@jph.gov.my

**DVS Sabah :**

Dato' Haji Awang Sahak Hj Awang Salleh  
Director  
Jabatan Perkhidmatan dan Perusahaan Ternak Sabah,  
Level 3, Block B,  
Wisma Pertanian Sabah  
Jln Tasik Luyang  
Beg Berkunci 2051  
88999 Kota Kinabalu  
Sabah, Malaysia  
Tel: 088-287401 | Fax: 088-238418  
e-mail: [AgSahak.AgSalleh@sabah.gov.my](mailto:AgSahak.AgSalleh@sabah.gov.my)

**Dear DVS KL/ DVS Sabah**

**I am writing to express my concern over the Melinsung Ranch, Sabah Cruelty Case where horses are starving and dying after being neglected by the owner of the Ranch, I appeal to you to act in this case and confiscate the horses and prosecute the owner using the animal protection Law in Malaysia – the Animals Act 1953.**

**Please end the suffering of the Horses immediately and prosecute the owner of the Ranch who is responsible for causing this cruelty.**

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**Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI):**

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Director of Endurance  
Driving & Para-Equestrian Dept  
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**Equestrian Association of Malaysia (EAM):**

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Fax: (603) 4270 6846  
E-mail: [eam99@tm.net.my](mailto:eam99@tm.net.my), [equestrian\\_mas@yahoo.com](mailto:equestrian_mas@yahoo.com), [msyap@eam.org.my](mailto:msyap@eam.org.my)

**Dear FEI/ EAM,**

**I am writing to express my concern over the Melinsung Ranch, Sabah Cruelty Case where horses are starving and dying after being neglected by the owner of the Ranch, I appeal to you to act in this case and put pressure on the DVS in KL and Sabah to confiscate the horses and prosecute the owner using the animal protection Law in Malaysia – the Animals Act 1953.**

**Please consider the events and future cooperation your Association has with Malaysia due to the suffering of horses at the Sabah Ranch.**

**Ministry Of Tourism Malaysia**

Y.B. Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor  
Minister of Tourism  
Ministry of Tourism Malaysia  
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50695 Kuala Lumpur,  
Federal Territory,  
Malaysia  
T : +6 03 2693 7111  
F : +6 03 2694 1146  
e-mail : info@motour.gov.my

**Dear Ministry of Tourism Malaysia,**

**I am writing to express my concern over the Melinsung Ranch, Sabah Cruelty Case where horses are starving and dying after being neglected by the owner of the Ranch, I appeal to you to act in this case and put pressure on the DVS in KL and Sabah to confiscate the horses and prosecute the owner using the animal protection Law in Malaysia – the Animals Act 1953.**

**Since the case surfaced in June 2007, SPCA Selangor and the World Society For The Protection Of Animals (WSPA) have received hundreds of e-mails from the international community who are outraged that the welfare of the horses are being blatantly disregarded and that the situation for the animals has not improved in the last 8 months. Please be aware that the reputation and image of Malaysia are at stake if the Malaysian Government does not take serious action against the owner of the Ranch.**

If you would like to make a donation to go towards the SPCA's work or specifically to help in the event that the horses are confiscated and put into the SPCA care, please go to the SPCA website: [www.spca.org.my](http://www.spca.org.my)

- ENDS -

Notes to Editors:

For interviews and pictures (including from the most recent visit to the site 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008)

please contact Sue Quek at +60122191974 or Jacinta Johnson, SPCA PR Officer at +60122881421

